

To W. L. Garrison.

Wm. L. Lodge,  
Edinburgh,  
17 Sept., 1864.

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My dear Friend -

It has greatly surprised  
& grieved me to see that some of  
y<sup>r</sup>. old friends & allies have so  
far forgotten one of the leading  
principles of the Anti-Slavery  
movement - the freedom of  
thought & speech - as to withdraw  
their support from the Liberator;  
- even utter words of harshness  
& intolerance towards yourself,  
for no other reason than that  
you have exercised the right of  
forming a strong expression to  
your opinion on the question  
Who is the fittest man to fill  
the Presidential chair.

Though the fact that the South  
is in violent opposition to Mr.  
Lincoln, & the Copperhead



Journals of the North Lord in  
praise & support of Anti-Slavery,  
is, to my mind, a  
somewhat speaking one, & such  
that it is not for me to venture  
an opinion on a question so vast  
& so complicated: especially  
seeing that some of the truest &  
best friends of the slave have  
come to conclusions so widely  
different on the subject.

But I am very glad to discover  
on what rational ground the  
Anti-Slavery integrity, either of  
yourself or of our excellent  
friend, Wendell Phillips, is  
to be measured by <sup>your</sup> allegiance  
to the one, or <sup>your</sup> rejection of the  
other. Surely, you have each  
given proof most abundant  
by <sup>your</sup> labors & sacrifices on  
behalf of the slave, that, in  
taking whichever line you  
might, you could only be



actuated by the one motive which  
has all along been <sup>your</sup> guiding  
star - the aim to obtain &  
secure equal rights & liberties  
to the black <sup>man</sup> as to the white, &  
that if in error, the error  
must be in judgment, not in  
principles.

When, however, & so far from  
thus judging of the course you  
have seen it right to take in  
the present crisis, you are ac-  
cused of having abandoned  
the cause of the slave, some  
of us, who have been readers  
of the Liberator for the last  
eight & twenty <sup>years</sup> & who have  
watched, with unceasing  
admiration, the utter forget-  
fulness of self, with which  
you have <sup>ever</sup> remembered those  
in bonds as bound with  
them, for we have come to  
look upon you as the greatest



of living moral heroes, & must  
be allowed to regard charges like  
these - coming from not adherents -  
as simply absurd & indicative  
merely of some freak & not very  
desirable change in the temper  
of their own minds.

But it does give me deep pain &  
anxiety to learn that a grave  
probability exists that the glorious  
"Pioneer Sheet" may have to be  
discontinued, in consequence of  
the falling off of subscribers, &  
the increased expenses attendant  
on its further tenure.

In token of my longing desire  
that such may never be the case  
until the grand result it has  
done so much to bring about  
may be fully accomplished -  
the song of - Freedom to every man  
woman & child, be heard through-  
out the whole of your once  
united States, I enclose a



- draft for £10 sterling on  
Messrs Brown, Brothers & Co.,  
Boston.

With kindest regards to  
yourself, & wife & family,  
I am always sincerely &  
affectionately,  
Yours friend  
Wm. P. Nichol.



Eliz. Pease Nichol.  
Sept. 1, 1864.